

**SOUTH TRUCKEE MEADOWS GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 23, 2001

PRESENT:

Jim Shaw, Chairman
Pete Sferrazza, Vice Chairman
Joanne Bond, Commissioner
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Ted Short, Commissioner

Amy Harvey County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Deputy District Attorney
Paul Orphan, Engineering Manager, Water Resources

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada and conducted the following business:

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the October 23, 2001, meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 28, 2001, be approved.

**01-21STM REVISED POLICY – REIMBURSEMENT OF DOMESTIC WELL
DEEPENING COSTS**

Paul Orphan, Engineering Manager, Water Resources, advised that the Local Managing Board recommended the Board of Trustees approve the revised policy. He submitted a revised policy with word corrections for the Board's review.

Commissioner Bond said some of the wells have been there for so long, they do not have any permits. Mr. Orphan said the wells that fall outside of the policy would be handled as a separate matter and not under this blanket policy.

Commissioner Short asked if the well policy was a unanimous vote by the Local Managing Board. Mr. Orphan said yes it was.

Commissioner Sferrazza asked that the words “independently verified” be added to the beginning of sentence No. 2 (a), because at the last hearing there was an argument made by a well owner that the well had been drawdown, but did not have any independent verification that that was true. He said Mr. Orphan had indicated that well drillers logbooks could be used to verify historical water level measurements. Commissioner Sferrazza said absent that type of evidence he does not believe STMGID should agree to pay for anything.

Commissioner Galloway suggested adding words to say “if staff agrees that it can be shown.” Commissioner Sferrazza said he would agree as long as it is made clear the applicant cannot just come in and say my well has gone down 30 feet based on historical water level. Mr. Orphan said they could add the words “verified by staff” to No. 2(a).

Terri Shannon, area resident, said she would like to remind the Board that residents have protested the revision of the well deepening policy, until future damage has been mediated. She said over 25 people have notified the Board that they have damage to their wells, and they are in the process of working with staff to come to a conclusion regarding those wells. She requested that the Board hold off on revising the policy until the process is made clear. Ms. Shannon advised that another well was turned on this week, which will take more water from the basin, and needs to be monitored to see how it affects the current situation. She said people do not know if 100 feet is deep enough for wells, and she does not know why people would sign the hold harmless agreement as stated in Policy No. 8.

Commissioner Galloway said maybe Policy No. 8 should not apply to everything. The idea of that policy was so STMGID could go ahead and deepen some wells, because without a policy they did not feel they could even do that. Mr. Orphan said currently STMGID is only responsible for up to 50 feet of deepening, but they are changing that to 100 feet. Mr. Orphan said No. 8 was authorized by the District Attorney’s office, and noted that in the past people who have been reimbursed under the well deepening policy have signed the hold harmless indemnification.

Chairman Shaw said depending on the circumstance, someone could end up being held hostage to a policy.

Commissioner Bond said she has a problem with 100 feet because not all wells start at the same depth. Mr. Orphan said that is why the words “unless the conditions warrant otherwise” are included in Policy No. 3.

Commissioner Galloway said he believes the word “indemnifying” is the wrong word to use in this instance, and suggested changing the word “will” to “may.” Paul Lipparelli, Deputy District Attorney, suggested changing the word indemnifying to

“releasing.” Commissioner Galloway asked that an additional policy (No. 9) be included that says “if the well prior to failure was there unlawfully or if it was not on the property then this policy does not apply.”

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the revised policy for reimbursement of domestic well deepening costs be approved as amended.

01-22STM MANAGEMENT REPORT – OCTOBER 2001

Terri Shannon, area resident, said the graphs showing the water levels are different, and she would like to see the graphs provide the same information so they are easier to read. She commented that there were discrepancies in the Local Managing Board’s minutes. Ms. Shannon said she requested that her well be monitored and she was told no, so now she has to pay someone to monitor her well, which she will do. She suggested fast tracking a process to handle the monitoring of wells.

In response to Commissioner Sferrazza’s inquiry about the level of the well dropping 90 feet, Mr. Orphan said the well dropped that much between November and August; and if it failed to recover this winter to where it was last November, that would be the rate of decline to measure. He said the yearly records need to be compared to come up with the decline in the aquifer.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that receipt of the Management Report for October, 2001 be acknowledged.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one wishing to make public comment at this time.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Board and Staff had no comments at this time.

* * * * *

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

JAMES M. SHAW, Chairman
South Truckee Meadows General
Improvement District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex Officio Secretary, South Truckee
Meadows General Improvement District

Minutes Prepared By:
Jeraldine Magee, Deputy County Clerk